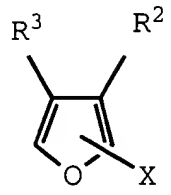
therapeutically-effective amount of an antiinflammatory compound, said compound selected from a compound of the formula



wherein X is hydrogen; wherein R^2 is aryl optionally substituted with a radical selected from halo, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, sulfamyl and lower alkylsulfonylamino; and wherein R^3 is aryl optionally substituted with a radical selected from halo, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, lower alkylsulfonylamino and sulfamyl;

with the overall proviso if when X is hydrogen then R^2 and R^3 are not both p-methoxyphenyl, p-chlorophenyl, p-bromophenyl, naphthyl and phenyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

-- 62. The composition of Claim 61 wherein one of R^2 and R^3 is phenyl substituted with lower alkylsulfonyl or sulfamyl, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. --

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the courteous interview granted to Applicants' attorneys on June 12, 1996. Such interview was useful in advancing prosecution of this application. Specifically, Examiner indicated two potential interferences, one concerning compounds of Claim 47 where X is hydroxyl and another where X is hydrogen. Applicants would participate in both interferences.

Examiner proposes a restriction between compounds of Claim 1:

Group I - where Y is oxygen,

Group II - where Y is sulfur, and

Group III - where Y is nitrogen.

Applicants elect the compounds of Group I, with traverse. Applicants assert the compounds of Formula I, based on the aryl-substituted heteroaryl core, define a family of compounds that have utility for treating inflammation and inflammation-related disorders. It is believed that the family of compounds embraced by Formula I and Claim 1, constitutes a single inventive entity. Based on the Patent and Trademark Office classification system, combination of Groups I-III would not be an undue burden during prior art searching. Therefore, restriction is believed to be improper.

Claims 1 and 35-46 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Ducharme et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,474,995. The current Claims find support in the parent application, Serial No. 08/004,822, in Claim 1 and on pages 2-4. The parent application has a filing date of January 15, 1993, prior to the filing date of Ducharme. Therefore, Ducharme is not prior art against the present claims.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 47-62 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of Claims 47-62 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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